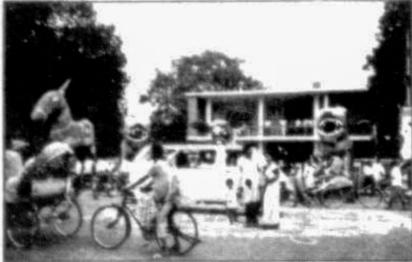


# Dhaka Day by Day

## Festivity of Pahela Baishakh!

by Parveen Anam

With Rabindranath Tagore's immortal 'Aysho hey Baishakh, aysho aysho', the Bengalee welcomes the New Year of the Bangla calendar, yet again. He welcomes it, as always, with joy and hope, with sighs and bated breath, hoping the year holds good for him, and his people. Perhaps he can do little else; but the joy of the new year and the message he hopes it holds, never fails to elude him. It is tradition, which beckons him to welcome it with songs and flowers, but it is hope which tempts him to welcome it with a quiet determination.



The Bengalee welcomes his new year, with music; it is the basic romanticism of the nation, which finds an outlet at the beginning of the new year and the basic love of the nation for music. Poets over the years have welcomed it with songs and poems written specially for the occasion. And as the dawn breaks over the horizon, the lovely, haunting melodies of the ever immortal yet ever new, floats over the fields and parks, under the trees, over the rivers, on the lips of the shepherd boy and the village belle, bidding adieu to the old and welcome to the new. There is nothing artificial or ostentatious in this enthusiasm in welcoming the new year; it is spontaneous. The rich and the poor alike, celebrate. Sweets are distributed, flowers given, new clothes (for those who can afford them) are worn and songs are sung. There is joy and merriment, contentment and hope. For this one day, the Bengalee forgets the despair of everyday life and hopes anew. Shopkeepers open new accounts, with

the traditional new book of accounts, the 'haikhat' and all customers on the day are welcomed with sweets and flowers, in the hope that business will be good. Credits are all cleared and nothing is owed. The conscience and the accounts are clean!

The Pahela Baishakh is traditionally at a time, when thunder clouds darken the skies and the infamous 'kalbaishakh's' tear nature asunder, but that again is part of the tradition. And yet, the last few years, nature has managed to rob the Bengalee of the traditional storm marking the advent of the Pahela

Baishakh and scorching heat and dust storms have been the lot of the new year celebrations. Not that it has robbed the joyousness of the day, for the Bengalee loves his tradition, his music and his Pahela Baishakh far too much to let trivial things like nature, rob him of the joy of it, the joy of singing till it is broad daylight and then going on to eat the traditional 'puris' and 'bhaji' prepared lovingly and with care. Greetings and gifts are exchanged and the lovely fragrance of the jasmine and 'rajanigandha' fill the air, as many a garland is seen to adorn the tresses of the lovely ladies. But there is always a silent prayer that, as the traditional songs are sung and hopes renewed, we will probably see a softening in mother nature's whims and vagrancies and the Pahela Baishakh will bring along with it the welcome rains and the cool breeze which will gladden the heart and cheer the soul, in this our beloved land, of poets, rivers and flowers.

## Cabinet approves environment policy

The Cabinet has approved the national environment policy and the action plan for implementation of the policy, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at Bangabhaban Monday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The policy has been adopted to help conserve and develop the ecological balance, save the country from natural calamities, identify the nature of all sorts of pollution and control them, to ensure durable development in every sphere suiting the demand of the environment, ensure judicious and long term use of all national resources and keep the nation alive to all international steps in connection with the environment as far as possible.

The Cabinet also approved in principle the draft of the law framed for the purpose of establishment of open university in the country.

Ministers, State Ministers-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and concerned secretaries were present.

### Baishakhi Mela

Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee has chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate the Pahela Baishakh the first day of the Bengali new year, in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The programmes include Baishakhi Mela at Dhakeswari Mandir Melaangan, discussion on the significance of the day and cultural function.

The Dhakeswari Temple authority has also taken some measures to facilitate the devotees for giving puja to the temple.

Pradip Chakrabarty, Sebat of the Temple, has requested the devotees to maintain discipline during their visit to the temple.

## Biswas donates Tk 2 lakh to SC Bar Assoc

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has donated Taka two lakh to the Supreme Court Bar Association to purchase books for the library. The cheque received by the outgoing President of the Association and was presented to the newly elected President Khondakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed on Sunday on his assumption of office.

## List of 21,809 Rohingyas handed over to Myanmar mission

The 11th installment of the list of Myanmar Muslim refugees numbering 21,809 was handed over Monday to the embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Dhaka for necessary action by the Myanmar government, reports BSS.

## Rotary Int'l confce April 17

A 3-day conference of Rotary International begins in Dhaka on April 17, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the conference intended to promote peace in the region.

Rotarians from home and abroad will discuss progressive efforts to instill goodwill in the area through economic, educational and environmental initiatives. The importance of linking public and private sector to empower large scale humanitarian programmes will also be a topic highlighted in the conference.

## Titas Gas earns Tk 33cr profit

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited has earned a net profit of Taka 33 crore 46 lakh in fiscal 1990-91 compared to Taka 14 crore 28 lakh in fiscal 1989-90, reports BSS.

# Report of alleged ban on preaching of Sura Al-Namal false: Foreign Ministry

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement said that the report published in a section of the press of Dhaka on March 19 and 20 regarding alleged ban on preaching of the Ayat No 34 of Sura Al-Namal of the holy Quran in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the order of Khademul Haramain Al-Sharifain, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, is totally false and baseless, reports BSS.

It said the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh verified the facts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this regard and intimated that there is no truth in the report on such ban of Ayat there.

The embassy felt that such misleading reports were initiated

by politically motivated quarters with the intention of defaming the good name and image of Khademul Haramain Al-Sharifain, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and harming the very close and brotherly relations existing between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia.

It is also felt that publication of such false and mischievous reports in Bangladesh would create a bad impression about credibility of our press in Saudi Arabia. Such misrepresentation of facts cannot go unnoticed and unprotested. The Embassy has stressed that it would be inconceivable on the part of the Saudi authority to do anything which will tarnish the sanctity of the holy

book and Islam. It was pointed out that Saudi Arabia under the order of Khademul Haramain Al-Sharifain, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz Al-Saud has been serving the cause of Islam and the Islamic Ummah with great distinction.

King Fahd's personal contribution in propagation of Islam, promotion of Muslim cause and protection of interests of the Muslims in different parts of the world has earned him universal appreciation. The care taken by him for the welfare and conveniences of millions of wor-

shippers coming to Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage is well-known. Khademul Haramain Al-Sharifain has generously undertaken the massive expansion programme of the two holy mosques out of his personal funds only to serve Islam and make pilgrimage easier.

Saudi Arabia's generous and selfless assistance to distressed people is gratefully remembered by Muslims of all over the world. Only recently Bangladesh was a recipient of SR 400 million donated by King Fahd for the cyclone victims.

## No plan to introduce new inter-city trains Reduction of losses in Railway under study

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed informed the Jatiya Sangsad Monday that the government had no plan to introduce any new inter-city trains before the losses were brought down, reports BSS.

At present 44 (22 pairs) inter-city trains are in operation, he pointed out.

Ahmed said this year the government was working to bring down loss to Taka 125 crore from last year's Taka 176 crore. He said during Ziaur Rahman's period annual loss in the Railways was Taka 2 crore.

Replying to a question from Mirza Azam (Al-Jamalpur) Oli Ahmed said the Railway Division had a plan to transform Tongi-Bhairab Bazar into double track with German grant.

The double track section is 63 kilometers long and will cost Taka 73 crore including Taka 35 crore in foreign exchange.

Answering a supplementary, the Minister said passenger fares were enhanced after the

budget to lower the loss in the Railways. He, however, stated that the increase was very marginal.

Ahmed said besides making arrangements for prayer in the trains and improving toilet facilities, the new government had ensured that the inter-city trains ran on all week days.

The Minister further stated that the total length of double lines in Bangladesh Railways was 240.38 kilometers of which 125.58 were in the Eastern Zone and nearly 115 km in the Western Zone.

## UK recognises FCPS degree

Three Royal Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom have mutually recognised the FCPS (Medicine) degree of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons, a press release said in Dhaka Monday.

The FCPS (Medicine) graduates of the college will now get exemption from appearing in MRCP (UK) first part examinations of the royal colleges of the United Kingdom and can directly sit for the MRCP (UK) final part examinations, the press release added.

## IBA workshop from Apr 18

Institute of Business Administration (IBA) will hold the 2nd South Asian Regional Workshop on 'Entrepreneurship Development in Management Education' from April 18 to 30 at Hotel Purban, reports UNB.

Representatives from Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will participate in the workshop to be organised in collaboration with Canadian Consortium of Management School (CCMS) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The workshop is aimed at enabling the participants to design and deliver training programmes of entrepreneurship in management education. For further information interested persons have been requested to contact Prof. Abdur Rab, IBA over phone 813880.

## Art exhibition

An eight-day portrait exhibition of artist Madhu Milla has begun at the National Museum Gallery in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum inaugurated the exhibition.

A total of 50 oil-painting portraits including 37 portraits of eminent political and cultural personalities of home and abroad have been put on display.



DU Vice Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah speaking at the Spring Poetry Festival organised by Mukhtaman in front of the Arts Faculty Monday. —Star photo

## 136 held in city

A special team of Detective Branch of Metropolitan Police Monday arrested five 'professional thieves' from Kotwali thana area, reports BSS.

These people were responsible for hijacking and stealing of belongings of passengers at Gabtali, Fulbaria, Gulistan, Sayeedabad and Mahakhali areas for a long period.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Police have rounded up 131 persons from different parts of the city on charge of various offences during last 24 hours and sent them to court hajat. They included 25 persons who were wanted under warrant orders.

The police have also instituted 138 cases against drivers and owners of motor vehicles for violation of traffic rules.

## TV Tuesday

- 3:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary
- 3:12 Recitation from the Geeta
- 3:15 Full length Bengali film
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 6:00 Children's Programme
- 6:30 Poetry recitation programme
- 7:00 Programme on Nazrul's Baishakhi songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:40 Programme on Pahela Baishakh
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:25 Parliamentary round-up
- 10:35 Documentary programme on Pahela Baishakh
- 11:30 The News
- 11:40 Wednesday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

## Literary, cultural practice may contain terrorism: DU VC

By Staff Correspondent

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Maniruzzaman Miah Monday stressed the need for utilising literary and cultural practice in containing terrorism from the educational institutions.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 'Dhaka University Spring Poetry Festival '92' at the 'Amtala' of the University.

Prof Miah said that the university authorities were not being able to maintain expected peace on the campus due to unabated terrorist acts.

He termed the organising of such a festival as a positive

step towards the way to eliminate terrorism saying that the practice of literature and culture would contribute to emerge meaning thoughts among the students.

The festival organised by the 'Mukhtaman' in collaboration with the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) was inaugurated by poet Ataur Rahman while the second part of the festival was presided over by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Wakil Ahmed.

DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon, Rafiqul Islam Jaglu and convener of the festival Ishraf Hossain.

## Weather

### No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country for the second consecutive day today (Tuesday), Met office forecasts. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the next 24 hours across the country till 6 pm today.

The highest temperature of the country 41.8 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi on Monday and the lowest temperature 23.2 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangpur.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.20 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.38 am.

The temperature and humidity recorded yesterday at the important cities and towns of the country are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	37.0	26.8	76	69
Chittagong	32.2	26.0	76	78
Rajshahi	41.8	24.5	72	25
Khulna	37.2	26.6	77	72
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.2	72	77
Rangpur	-	23	42	-
Sylhet	35.0	24.9	72	60
Cornilla	33.7	25.3	82	81
Jessore	40.5	25.8	-	-
Bartals	34.3	26.8	87	82

Ref: No. 22.16/22 Dated: 12 April, '92  
International Tender for Supply of High Speed Diesel Oil (HSD) During May, 1992

## Tender Notice

- I) (a) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) hereby invites offers for supply of 145,000 Barrels of High Speed Diesel (HSD) on C&F Chittagong basis in accordance with the terms and conditions set out hereinafter:
  - (b) Volume mentioned at (a) will be subject to an operational tolerance of 5 (five) per cent.
  - (c) Barrel means 42 United States Standard Gallon each of two hundred thirty one (231) cubic inches at sixty degrees (60°) Fahrenheit.
- II) Entire quantity as mentioned above must be delivered at Chittagong between 14-17 May, 1992 in one shipment.
- III) Tender will be received up to 1200 hours (BST) on 23 April, '92 at Buyer's Head Office, HBFC Building, 1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong in presence of the bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present.
- IV) Other terms and conditions will be as per BPC's General Terms and Conditions of Supply of Petroleum Products (Ref: 22.16 dated 27 March, 1991.)
- V) Offers must be valid up to 1800 hours BST 30 April, 1992.
- VI) Local Agents of reputed buyers interested in the tender with proper application and due authorisation of principal may collect tender documents on all working days during office hours from:
  - (a) The Commercial and Operations Division of the Corporation at its Head Office HBFC Building, 4th Floor, 1/D, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong - 4100.
  - (b) Jamuna Oil Company Limited (JOCL), Dhaka Office at 28, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka.
  - (c) Bangladesh Mission in Singapore.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation  
1/D, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.

## Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation

Second Rubber Development Project (Madhupur Zone)  
Kakraid, Madhupur, Tangail

উজাড় বনভূমি সন্ধ্যাবহার করে রাবার উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করুন

## Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 06/91-92 Dated 15-12-98 BS/ 29-3-92 Eng.  
Rates in prescribed schedule under sealed cover are invited from supplying firms/experienced contractors for completion of the works and supply of goods as mentioned below. Tender schedule will be available against non-refundable price from the office of the undersigned and Estate Office (Peergacha). Tenders for supply of chemical fertilizer and liversies supply will be received only in the prescribed tender box at the project office and the tender for jungle cutting will be received at both the offices.

Sl No.	Description of work	Quantity	Price of tender schedule (Taka)	Last date of selling schedule	Earnest money	Date & time of receiving & opening tender
TENDER NOTICE						
1.	Jungle cutting at 2nd, 3rd & 4th year plantation at Peergacha area of Madhupur Rubber Estate	1348 acres	100/=	25-4-92	25% of total quoted rate	26-4-92 receiving by 12.00 Noon & opening at 12-15 hrs
2.	Jungle cutting at 2nd, 3rd & 4th year plantation at Chandpur Rubber Estate.	1050 acres	100/=	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-
3.	Supply of workers/ employees liversies	72 sets	100/=	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-
4.	White polythene (25cmx15cm)	400 kg	50/=	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-
Re-Tender Notice (2nd Call)						
1.	(A) Urea	= 66 tons	100/=	25-4-92	25% of total quoted rate	26-4-92 receiving by 12.00 Noon & opening at 12-15 hrs
	(B) TSP	= 60 tons				
	(C) MP	= 33 tons				

FIDCOR: 125/91-92  
DFF (G) 5285-9/4  
G-401

Major Md. Murad Ali Khan (Retd)  
Acting Project Director  
Second Rubber Development Project (Madhupur Zone)